



108

# Greatest Of All Times

*globally selected  
PERSONALITIES*

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Compiled by:  
Prof Dr S Ramalingam

23 Oct 1940 <::><::><::> 29 Dec 2022

PELE

THE MORE  
DIFFICULT THE  
VICTORY, THE  
GREATER THE  
HAPPINESS IN  
WINNING



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29 Dec 2022

The King of Football



$1284^* = 1283 + 1$

**PELÉ**

The King of Football



Pelé is scoring\* ...at the age of 70!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htNuwHhfN6k&ab\\_channel=BrazilianPublicity](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htNuwHhfN6k&ab_channel=BrazilianPublicity)

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[https://archive.org/details/mgr-2023-dpes-pele\\_202212](https://archive.org/details/mgr-2023-dpes-pele_202212)

# PELE – Biography

## Source:

<https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~rwest/wikispeedia/wpcd/wp/p/Pel%25C3%25A9.htm>

**Edson Arantes do Nascimento**, KBE (born October 23, 1940 in Três Corações, Brazil), best known by his nickname **Pelé**, is a former Brazilian football player, and widely regarded to be the greatest of all time. In his native Brazil, Pelé is hailed as a national hero for his accomplishments and contribution to the game, in addition to being officially declared a national treasure by the Brazilian government. During his career, he became known as "**The King of Football**" (*O Rei do Futebol*) or simply "**The King Pelé**" (*O Rei Pelé*).

Spotted from a young age, Pelé began playing for Santos Futebol Clube at just 15, his national team at 16, and won his first World Cup at 17. He stayed loyal to his club, remaining with them for two decades until his semi-retirement in 1975, despite numerous offers from European clubs. Pelé played as an inside forward, striker, and what later became known as the playmaker position. Pelé's technique and natural athleticism have been universally praised; he was renowned for his brilliant dribbling and visionary passing, as well as his pace, powerful shot, and an exceptional heading ability.

He is the all-time top scorer in the history of the Brazil national team and is the only footballer ever to win three World Cup titles as a player. Since his full retirement in 1977 Pelé has been an ambassador for football and has also undertaken various acting roles and commercial ventures.

## Early life

Born in Três Corações, Minas Gerais, Brazil, the son of Fluminense footballer Dondinho (born Joao Ramos do Nascimento) and Celeste. He was named after American inventor Thomas Edison, and was originally nicknamed **Dico** by his family. He did not receive the nickname "Pelé" until his school days, when it is claimed he was given it because of his pronunciation of the name of his favourite player, local Vasco da Gama goalkeeper Bilé, which he misspoke "Pilé". He originally disliked the nickname, being suspended from school for punching the classmate that coined it, but the more he complained the more it stuck. In his autobiography, Pelé stated he had no idea what the name means, nor did his old friends. Apart from the assertion that the name is

derived from that of Bilé, the word has no known meaning, although it does resemble the Irish language word 'Peile', meaning football, and the [Hebrew](#) word אִלָּן, meaning "wonder".

Growing up in poverty in Bauru, São Paulo, Pelé earned extra money by shining shoes at the Bauru Athletic Club on match days. Taught to play by his father, whose own professional football career with Atletico Mineiro ended prematurely due to a knee injury, he could not afford a proper football and usually played with either a sock stuffed with newspaper, tied with a string or a grapefruit.

His first team was called the "Shoeless Ones" formed by himself and other boys from the Sete de Setembro and Rubens Arruda Street but, when they entered a local tournament organised by the mayor of Bauru that required footwear, they were no longer shoeless and were renamed Ameriquinha. They reached the final in BAC Stadium in front of thousands of spectators and won with Pelé ending up as the tournament top scorer.

In 1954, several members of the Ameriquinha team, including Pelé, were invited to join the Baquinho boys' team to be managed by former Brazilian international Waldemar de Brito, who played in the 1934 World Cup in Italy. For the first time, Pelé was paid to play football. The team won the 1954 Youth Championship organised by the newspapers Diario de Bauru and the São Paulo Sporting Gazette with Pelé scoring 148 goals in 33 games.

Club career

### Santos

In 1956, de Brito took Pelé to Santos, an industrial and port city in the eastern state of São Paulo, to try out for professional club Santos Futebol Clube telling the directors at Santos that the 15-year-old would be "the greatest football player in the world."

### National team career

Pelé's first international match was a 2-1 victory against Argentina on July 7, 1957. In that match, he scored his first goal for Brazil, three months before his 17th birthday.

### 1958 World Cup

His World Cup debut was against the USSR in the first round of the 1958 FIFA World Cup. He was the youngest player of that tournament, and at the time the youngest ever to play in the World Cup. He scored his first World Cup goal against Wales in quarterfinals, the only goal of the match, to help Brazil advance to semifinals, while becoming the youngest ever World Cup goalscorer at 17 years and 239 days. Against France in the semifinal, Brazil was leading 2-1 at



halftime, and then Pelé scored a hat-trick, becoming the youngest in World Cup history to do so.

On 19 June 1958 Pelé became the youngest player to play in a World Cup final match at 17 years and 249 days. He scored two goals in the final as Brazil beat Sweden 5-2. His first goal, a lob over a defender followed by a precise volley shot, was selected as one of the best goals in the history of the World Cup. When the match ended, he passed out on the field, and had to be attended by the medical staff. He then recovered, and was visibly compelled by the victory, in tears as being congratulated by his teammates. He finished the tournament with six goals in four matches played, tied for second place, behind record-breaker Just Fontaine.

### 1962 World Cup

In the first match of the 1962 World Cup, against Mexico, Pelé assisted the first goal and then scored the final 2-0 after a run past four defenders. He injured himself while attempting a long-range shot against Czechoslovakia. This would keep him out of the rest of the tournament, and forced coach Aymoré Moreira to make his only lineup change of the tournament. The substitute was Amarildo, who had a good performance in the tournament; it was, however, Garrincha, who would take the leading role and carried Brazil to their second World Cup title.

### 1966 World Cup

The 1966 tournament was remembered for its excessive physical play, and Pelé was one of the victims of such play. After becoming the first player ever to score in three World Cups, with a direct free kick against Bulgaria, he had to rest, due to tiredness, for the match against Hungary, which Brazil lost 1-3. He then faced Portugal, and several violent tackles by the Portuguese defenders caused him to leave the match and the tournament. Brazil lost that match and were eliminated in the first round of the World Cup for the first time since 1934. After the tournament, Pelé declared that he did not wish to play in the World Cup again.

### 1970 World Cup

When Pelé was called to the national team in early 1969, he first refused, but then accepted and played in six World Cup qualifying matches, scoring six goals. The 1970 tournament in [Mexico](#) was to be Pelé's last.

The 1970 squad featured major changes in relation to the 1966 squad. Players like Garrincha, Nilton Santos, Djalma Santos, and Gilmar had already retired, but

the team, with Pelé, Rivelino, Jairzinho, Gérson, Tostão, and Clodoaldo, is widely considered one of the greatest football teams ever.

In the first match, against Czechoslovakia, Pelé scored the 2-1 after controlling Gerson's pass with his chest. Brazil won the match, 4-1. On the first half of the match against England, he nearly scored with a header that was spectacularly saved by Gordon Banks. On the second half, he assisted Jairzinho for the only goal of the match. Against Romania, he opened the score on a direct free kick goal, a strong strike with the outside of his right foot. Later on the match he scored again to put the score 3-1. Brazil won by a final score of 3-2. In quarterfinals against Peru, Brazil won 4-2, with Pelé assisting Tostão on his team's third goal. In the semi-finals, Brazil faced Uruguay for the first time since the 1950 World Cup final round match. Jairzinho put Brazil ahead 2-1, and Pelé assisted Rivelino for the 3-1. In that match, Pelé hit [Uruguayan](#) player Fontes with his elbow, at the same time the latter was fouling Pelé.

Brazil played Italy in the final, with Pelé scoring the opener on a header over defender Tarcisio Burgnich. He then made assists on Jairzinho's and Carlos Alberto's goals, the latter one after an impressive collective play. Brazil won the match 4-1, keeping the Jules Rimet Trophy indefinitely. Burgnich, who marked Pelé during the match, was quoted saying "I told myself before the game, *he's made of skin and bones just like everyone else* — but I was wrong".

His last international match was on July 18, 1971 against Yugoslavia in [Rio de Janeiro](#). His record with the Brazilian team was 67 wins, 14 draws, and 11 losses. Brazil never lost a match with both Pelé and Garrincha on the field.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Pelé signing a football for US president Richard Nixon at the White House in 1973, two years before joining the New York Cosmos**

Watch these Videos:

01] From a Poor Child Without Shoes to the Greatest Football Player

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ticBz14b63I>

02] Pele Birth of a Legend

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5aljs0>

Kindly visit these Web Pages to know MORE!

01] <https://www.footballhistory.org/player/pele.html>

02] <https://starsunfolded.com/pele/>

03] <https://www.sportskeeda.com/player/pele>

04] <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/edison-arantes-do-nascimento-2544.php>

05] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rb\\_JqP6hAs&ab\\_channel=FamousPeopleBio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rb_JqP6hAs&ab_channel=FamousPeopleBio)

06] <https://sportsmatik.com/hall-of-fame/view/pel-1297>

07] <https://www.espn.com/classic/biography/s/Pele.html>

08] [https://www.streetdirectory.com/travel\\_guide/46236/soccer/biography\\_of\\_pele\\_the\\_king\\_of\\_football.html](https://www.streetdirectory.com/travel_guide/46236/soccer/biography_of_pele_the_king_of_football.html)

09] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pele-Brazilian-athlete>

10] <https://www.fifa.com/en/archive/pele>

## ***Escape to Victory***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCGxE6maK\\_o&ab\\_channel=TheArmourer%27sBench](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCGxE6maK_o&ab_channel=TheArmourer%27sBench)

With the UEFA European Football Championship (the Euros) starting this week we thought what better time to tackle a curious John Huston film starring no less than Michael Caine, Max Von Sydow, Sylvester Stallone, Pele and half of the Ipswich Town football club! It is of course 'Escape to Victory', a film which mixes football with a POW escape movie! We are joined by Ipswich Town fan and host of the excellent WW2TV, Paul Woodage, who brings his expert Ipswich Town knowledge to help us breakdown this unconventional war film!



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeQbTGgPNqo&ab\\_channel=RMMilitaryHistory](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeQbTGgPNqo&ab_channel=RMMilitaryHistory)

## ESCAPE TO VICTORY

Still the Greatest Football Movie Ever Made



Pele shows off his skills to the cast of Escape to Victory!



Pele in action during Escape to Victory's climactic clash between PoWs and a team of Nazi guards



## PELE in Stamps!

If there's one name in football that has remained in the minds and hearts of football players and enthusiasts, it's Pele. So what makes Pele the most popular man in this sport? To know about the player, one has to pay attention to his many sporting records and achievements. Up until this time, Pele is the all-time leading scorer of the Brazilian soccer team, and the only player to be part of the Brazilian team that managed to win three World Cups. Also, he was the youngest player to have scored in an international match - in 1957, a few days before his 17th birthday. One can say that it was one goal that redefined the sport and catapulted Pele to superstar status. This record remained unsurpassed until today, thus earning him a number of accolades, including the citation 'FIFA Player of the Century'.

There were a number of stamps that were designed to commemorate Pele's achievements in the game. He was part of the stamp's design in 1970 when the Brazilian team managed to win the Cup. The stamp shows Pele and his two team-mates as he celebrates a goal.

Pele may be Brazilian but it doesn't mean that he's only immortalized on Brazilian stamps. Other countries have also paid tribute to Pele's artistry on the playing field. Many countries that have also professed their love and passion for the 'beautiful game' included Pele in their stamp programs. For example, the Russian Republic of Komi issued stamps with Pele as the leading star.

Pele's influence in the sport extends beyond his professional playing career. Even after his retirement from the game, Pele was often used as the subject of many write-ups and stamps issued in Brazil and other countries. He also performed other roles in support of many organizations, including United Nations and UNESCO as ambassador.

**Brazil had released 1 million stamps  
[1000 x 1000] on the occasion of  
Pele scoring the 1000<sup>th</sup> GOAL!**



# 1000<sup>th</sup> Goal!

- The revered Brazil striker Pele scored his 1,000th goal on **19 NOVEMBER, 1969** at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium in a match between his beloved Santos and local outfit Vasco de Gama whose vast ranks of fans gave the iconic No. 10 a standing ovation.
- That goal was a beautifully converted penalty which escaped the grasp of the Vasco goalkeeper, sparking a pitch invasion by the press and culminating in Pele being paraded shoulder-high around the historic stadium by his teammates.
- Swarms of photographers and journalists had been poised pitch side for the moment.
- The goal has etched itself into the Brazilian national consciousness, a deft finish into the bottom right corner, with Pele running to collect the ball and kissing it as he turned away.
- Some 65,157 fans had bought tickets for the Brazilian league match in which Pele scored the landmark goal and which Santos went on to win 2-1. Folklore says there were 80,000 in the stands.

**Watch him scoring 1000<sup>th</sup> GOAL!**

<https://youtu.be/4BwXXbEDnVY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIRFh\\_MNXd8&ab\\_channel=ThisDayInHistory](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIRFh_MNXd8&ab_channel=ThisDayInHistory)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2404387446463259>



Brazil had released 1 million stamps  
[1000 x 1000] on the occasion of  
Pele scoring the 1000<sup>th</sup> GOAL!





Guinness Book Of World Records also recognises his goals. Pelé holds the world record for most career goals by a player with 1283 along with the record of most World Cup titles won by a single player with 3.





**1284 @ 70!**

Pele was interviewed in Brazil and revealed one last dream: scoring the last goal of his career for Brazil.

"if I could do a replay of my life... If I could do my last goal for brazil... I would like"

At this short film produced by Vivo, Pelé played once again for the national team of Brazil against the eternal rival Argentina. As tribute for him, who scored 1283 times for the Brazilians, he had the chance to make the only goal that he never scored.

Watch him to score 1284<sup>th</sup> goal at the age of 70!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htNuwHhfN6k&ab\\_channel=BrazilianPublicity](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htNuwHhfN6k&ab_channel=BrazilianPublicity)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=515204445213639>

# *Jersey No. 10*



## The 10 Best Players to have worn the **NO.10 JERSEY**

Source:

<https://sportslumo.com/football/famous-players-who-wore-the-no-10-jersey-in-football/>

\*\*\*\*\*

From Lionel Messi to Pele, the No.10 jersey has an historical significance in the game. Check out the players who donned this famous jersey.

Each jersey number has its own significance in a player's minds, but some numbers mean more to the fans than the others. The No. 10 is one such jersey. Many footballing greats have donned the legendary No.10 on their back while creating history. Modern day football fans particularly associate the jersey number with one playing legend - Lionel Messi. There great, Ronaldinho, donned it before Messi with Barcelona. If we do a little more digging, a host of other superstars have carried this number on their back as well.

Let's have a **LIST** of players who did justice to the No.10 Jersey:

### **PELE**

Arguably the greatest footballer of all-time, Pele broke every record possible at international level. Making his club debut at the age of 15 for Santos and breaking into Brazil national team at 16, the forward was one of the first few players to bring the spotlight on the famous No.10 jersey.

Among his most significant achievements were the three World Cups he won in 1958, 1962 and 1970. The gifted attacker has netted 77 times for Brazil and will always be remembered for his all-action attacking game. Be it passing, crossing, dribbling, finishing, there was not a thing Pele could not do.

### **DIEGO MARADONA**

Maradona was the next player to challenge Pele's "the greatest" footballer title. The Argentine attacker is one of the best dribblers football has ever seen. He is slick with his movement and manoeuvred past players with ease. His vision, passing range, late sprints and a lethal finish made him one of the best players to ever wear the No.10 jersey.

Among the four World Cups Maradona played, he is fondly remembered for his stupendous performance in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. He captained Argentina and led them to victory over West Germany in the final. In the tournament where he won the Golden Ball, Maradona had two most telling moments of his career – "Hand of God" goal and the "Goal of the Century", where he dribbled for 60 metres and beat five English players to put the ball in the net.

### **ZINEDINE ZIDANE**

One of the greatest attacking midfielders of all-time, Zidane was simply too hot to handle as a player. The elite playmaker made noticeable contributions for both France and Real Madrid. None more than the two goals he scored in the 1998 World Cup final against the all-conquering Brazil team.

His other illustrious moment came in the 2002 Champions League final, scoring a memorable left-footed volley winner against Bayer Leverkusen from the edge of the penalty box. Known for his elegance with the ball at his feet, Zidane was a technically gifted player who was at the heart of every good thing his club and country did. He is a fitting player to have donned the famous old jersey.

### **RONALDINHO**

A two time FIFA World Player of the Year, Ronaldinho had the world at his feet and made the opposition defenders dance to his tune in his Barcelona days. He has the honour of being one of the few players to get a standing ovation at their rivals Real Madrid's home ground – Santiago Bernabeu.

He was instrumental in Barcelona winning their first Champions League title (2006) in 14 years. Ronaldinho was also an integral part of the 2002 World Cup winning team, where he assisted Rivaldo for Brazil's equaliser and scored the famous free-kick goal from 40 yards against England in the quarterfinal. He made football look easy with his mesmerizing skills on the ball.

### **LIONEL MESSI**





with a combination of pinpoint passing and velvet control of the ball. He was one of the defining no.10s of the Premier League's early days.



## Soccer Positions

### A Complete Guide

[Written by [Ben](#) in [Soccer Positions](#)]

The game of soccer has been around for [almost 2,000 years](#). Over these years, the positions of the players on a soccer field have dramatically changed. Today, there are many factors to fully understand everything about soccer positions – from knowing the placement of each position on the field to learning how to train for each specific position.

Throughout this guide, I'll clearly explain everything you need to know about soccer positions.

So, what should you know about each soccer position?

**To understand positions in soccer, you must be familiar with:**

- The position numbers
- The importance of each position
- The placement of positions on the soccer field
- Field formations and where your position will be
- Skill sets that are critical for each position
- How to choose which position to play
- What makes someone great at their soccer position
- How to properly train for each position

Soccer can be tons of fun if you know what you are doing in the field. This article will go over the critical aspects of each position that you must know to dominate the soccer field.

## Soccer Positions and Numbers

**There are 11 positions in soccer.** These eleven positions include ten outfield players and one goalkeeper. The most common formation of these positions on a soccer field consists of four players in defense, three in midfield, and three forwards.

The 11 positions in soccer are:

1. Goalkeeper
2. Right Full-back (or Wingback)
3. Left Full-back (or Wingback)
4. Center-back
5. Center back (or sweeper)
6. Defensive Midfielder
7. Right Midfielder (or Winger)
8. Center Midfielder
9. Center Forward (or Striker)
10. Attacking Midfielder (or Center Forward)
11. Left Midfielder (or Winger)

A number is assigned to each position. You'll see them clearly displayed on the back of a soccer player's jersey. This started in the 1920s to allow individuals to identify where players were on the field. Below are the **11 soccer positions** and how they are usually numbered.

### Soccer Position Numbers

<i>Position Number</i>	<i>Position</i>
1	Goalie or Goalkeeper
2	Right Fullback or Wingback
3	Left Fullback or Wingback
4	Center Back
5	Center Back or Sweeper
6	Defending or Center Midfielder
7	Right Midfielder or Winger
8	Center Midfielder
9	Center Forward or Striker
10	Attacking Midfielder or Center Forward
11	Left Midfielder or Winger

## Soccer Position Roles and Their Importance

As with many sports, specific positions are assigned in soccer to make sure that each team can protect the soccer ball and defend their goal to the best of their ability.

The positions assigned in soccer are split into 3 main groups:

- Defenders
- Midfielders
- and Forwards

The soccer defenders' main goal is to stop the opposing team from making attacks and scoring goals. They are positioned within their own half of the field and work together to ensure the other team doesn't progress.

There are four main defensive positions in soccer. They are:

- **Goalkeeper** - The goalkeeper defends the goal from the other team's offensive players. The goalkeeper is the only player that can use their arms and hands to block the ball as long as the ball is inside the penalty box. If they step outside the penalty box or a member of their team passes them the ball, they cannot use their hands.
- **Right and Left Fullbacks** - The right and left fullbacks defend the sides of the field at the back and focus on blocking the opposing team's wingers or right or left midfielders. It is better if they are lighter on their feet to move quickly up and down the field to help with various plays. (If you want to know why I think this position is the easiest on the soccer field, check out this article I wrote.)
- **Center Back** - The center back, or central defender, is another defense position that covers the center of the field just in front of the goal. Their purpose is to prevent the opposing team, or the ball, from reaching the goalkeeper.
- **Sweeper** - The position of a sweeper is one that is not used that often. However, when it is used, their job is to defend the goal as a line of defense between the goalkeeper and the other defenders. They must fill the gaps left by their teammates in order to protect the goal.

## Midfielders

In soccer, the midfielders are stationed in the middle of the field, between the forwards and defenders. Their main job is to be a part of the attack and keep the ball pushing forwards towards the goal. The midfielders are often known as the "engine room" of a team as so much of the energy and action of a game comes through them and is created by them.

There are four types of midfielders on the field, and they are:

- **Defending or Holding Midfielder** – A midfielder, also known as a halfback, runs up and down the middle of the field between the defenders and forwards, connecting the

team from the back to the front. They do lots of running during the game as they move the ball to different parts of the field. The defensive midfielder must focus on retrieving balls from the back of the field while setting up the ball for the forwards to attack. I recently wrote an article – 17 Qualities of every Great Defensive Midfielder – which you can check out and discover much more about the role of a defensive midfielder in soccer and why it may be the best position in soccer.

- **Center Midfielder** – As one of the most essential roles, the central midfielder plays both offense and defense on the field. They set up plays for their team and move forward or backward, depending on where the ball is. They are the key to linking the team together as a whole by making many important decisions on the field. They need to have excellent ball skills. They are known for making long shots on the goal and assisting others.
- **Right and Left Midfielder or Wingers** – These midfielders play on the edges of the field drawing out the other team's defense and making room for the center midfielder and attacking midfielder to move in the center. They will often encounter one-on-one ball action between themselves and the opposing team's fullbacks as they work to cross the ball toward the center of the field to their teammates. Because they must dribble fast, pass the ball, assist in shots, and score themselves, wingers need to be incredibly fast and excellent at using the ball.
- **Attacking Midfielder** – Attacking midfielders spend most of a game focused on shooting and assisting the forwards. Like the center midfielder, the attacking midfielder must have great technique and accuracy when using the ball. They often take control of offensive plays and support the attack when possible.

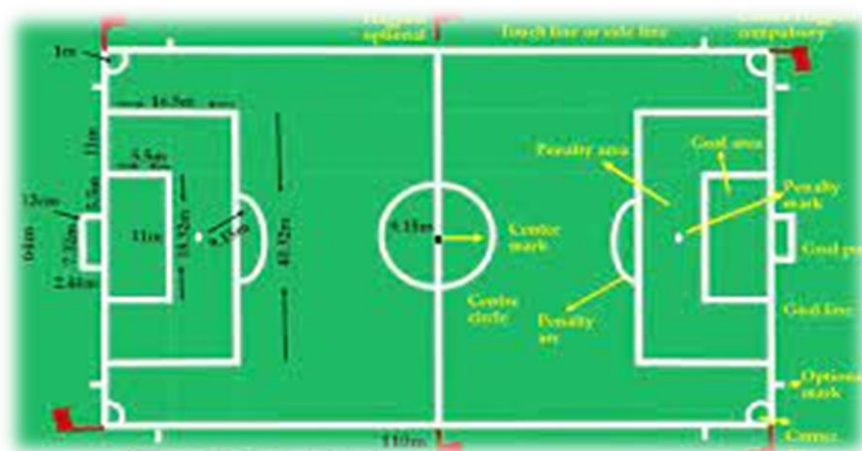
Forwards are the chief goal scores of the team, as they are placed close to the opposing team's goal and don't have many defensive responsibilities. Forwards typically score more goals than anyone else on the soccer field because of their strategic position.

### There are two types of forwards found on the field:

- **Striker** – The striker's role is to score goals. They are positioned in front of the field and will always be looking to receive passes from their teammates in an attempt to score a goal. They must be quick and able to outrun the other team's defense and profit from their mistakes. This is the most important position on a soccer team.
- **Center Forward** – The main role of the center forward, like the striker, is to score goals. Center forwards are known for control of the ball in the air, having good dribbling skills, and working as a distraction for the striker.
- The next step in understanding the various soccer positions is making sure you know where each player is positioned on the soccer field.
- Each player may play in multiple spots on the field depending on their coach's decisions, the formations the team uses, or whether they are playing a more defensive game or a more offensive game.
- If you are the **goalkeeper**, you will spend most of your time by the soccer goal, at either end of the field and within the penalty box or area – the 18-yard area that includes the goal area and is also centered in front of the soccer goal.
- If you are a **sweeper**, you will be positioned on the edge of the penalty box directly in front of each soccer goal.



- The **right and left fullbacks** and **center back** are positioned just outside the penalty box. The attacking team's forwards try to make their way into the penalty box to attempt to score a goal, while the defending team tries to keep the ball and opposing players as far away from the penalty box as they can.
- **Midfielders** spend the majority of their time playing in the middle third of the field, positioned between their attackers and their defenders.
- The **striker** and **forwards** aim to spend most of their time at the opposing teams' end of the field by their goal and penalty box.



# Pele's Quotes

*Pele*, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, born 23 October 1940 is a retired Brazilian footballer. In 1999, he was voted *World Player of the Century* by the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS). During the same year, Pelé was elected *Athlete of the Century* by the IOC, and Time named him in their list of *100 most influential people of the 20th century*.

Here are some influential Pele quotes.

~~~~~

"A penalty is a cowardly way to score."

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

"Everything is practice."

"I don't believe there is such a thing as a 'born' soccer player. Perhaps you are born with certain skills and talents, but quite frankly it seems impossible to me that one is actually born to be an ace soccer player"

"If you are first, you are first. If you are second, you are nothing."

"The more difficult the victory, the greater the happiness in winning."

"The ambition should always be to play an elegant game."

"Enthusiasm is everything. It must be taught and vibrating like a guitar string."

"A lot of people, when a guy scores a lot of goals, think, 'He's a great player', because a goal is very important, but a great player is a player who can do everything on the field. He can do assists, encourage his colleagues, give them confidence to go forward. It is someone who, when a team does not do well, becomes one of the leaders."

"Everything on earth is a game. A passing thing. We all end up dead. We all end up the same, don't we?"

"When I was minister of sport in Brazil, I tried to bring in a law that would make the chairmen of clubs reveal their accounts like other businesses. It was turned down, but I think it is an important story that will make a good film."

"You must respect people and work hard to be in shape. And I used to train very hard. When the others players went to the beach after training, I was there kicking the ball."

"I played for Santos at 16, and we had an excellent team, so it helped a lot. And then I played for Brazil at the Maracana against Argentina. So, I get more experience. This was one year before the World Cup, and it made a lot of difference."

"I always had a philosophy which I got from my father. He used to say, 'Listen. God gave to you the gift to play football. This is your gift from God. If you take care of your health, if you are in good shape all the time, with your gift from God no one will stop you, but you must be prepared.'"

"The bicycle kick is not easy to do. I scored 1,283 goals, and only two or three were bicycle kicks."

"A lot of people, when a guy scores a lot of goals, think, 'He's a great player', because a goal is very important, but a great player is a player who can do everything on the field. He can do assists, encourage his colleagues, give them confidence to go forward. It is someone who, when a team does not do well, becomes one of the leaders."

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

"Success isn't determined by how many times you win, but by how you play the week after you lose."

"Great teams are not made up of many well-rounded players. Great teams are made up of a variety of players, each having their own strengths."

"There is always someone out there getting better than you  
by training harder than you."

"I am constantly being asked about individuals. The only way to win is as a team. Football is not  
about one or two- or three-star players."

"Sport is something that is very inspirational for young people."

"I've come to accept that the life of a frontrunner is a hard one, that he will suffer more injuries  
than most men and that many of these injuries will not be accidental."

"If I pass away one day, I am happy because I tried to do my best. My sport allowed me to do so  
much because it's the biggest sport in the world."

"I have to trust something that gives me power; I have to believe in something, but in my career I  
have a lot of moments I cannot explain with God."

"I represent Brazil all over the world. Wherever I go I have to do my best, to not disappoint the  
Brazilian people. And that I've done."

"No individual can win a game by himself."

"I was born to play football, just like Beethoven was born to write music and  
Michelangelo was born to paint."

"A lot of people, when a guy scores a lot of goals, think, 'He's a great player', because a goal is  
very important, but a great player is a player who can do everything on the field. He can do  
assists, encourage his colleagues, give them confidence to go forward. It is someone who, when a  
team does not do well, becomes one of the leaders."

"Considerable research on successful soccer players and their developmental history, affirms that  
a good percentage of them have spent time in isolation, working on soccer skills."

"If you ever want to be a decent player, you have to be able to use both feet without stopping to  
think about it."

"The first World Cup I remember was in the 1950 when I was 9 or 10 years old. My father was a  
soccer player, and there was a big party, and when Brazil lost to Uruguay, I saw my father  
crying."

"Success isn't determined by how many times you win, but by how you play the week after you  
lose."



"I don't believe there is such a thing as a 'born' soccer player. Perhaps you are born with certain skills and talents, but quite frankly it seems impossible to me that one is actually born to be an ace soccer player"

"I think I've always had the shots. But in the past, I've suffered too many mental lapses. Now, I'm starting to get away from that and my mental discipline and commitment to the game are much better. I think I'm really taking a good look at the big picture. That's the difference between being around for the final or watching the final from my sofa at home."

"The World Cup is a very complicated tournament - six games, seven if you make it to the final - and maybe if you lose one game you're out, even if you're the best."

"Great genetics are not necessarily a precursor for success in the game. Brazilian Legend Pelé© has often said that soccer stars are not born. Without proper soccer training a player will never reach his full potential. It is true that great speed would benefit someone who plays as a winger but would not be as useful for a goalkeeper. The greatest advantage of soccer is that it is not as discriminating as basketball or volleyball. There are no limitations when it comes to physique and it all comes down to individual soccer skills."

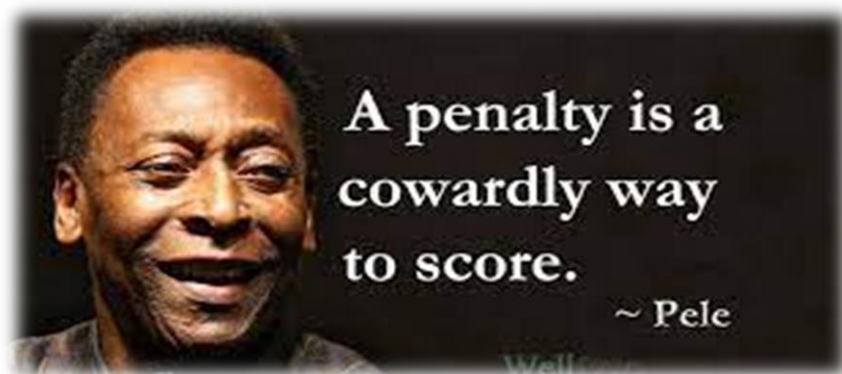
"At 17, I already had responsibility because I took care of my family, but in the football I was young; I wasn't experienced or the captain – I was just in the team."

If you don't give education to people, it is easy to manipulate them.

"Everybody knows my life. I won a lot of tournaments and scored more than 1,000 goals, won three World Cups but I could not play in Olympic Games."

"When you play against dirty players or very tough players, it's easy to escape because you know what they're going to do. But when the player is tough but intelligent, it's much more difficult."

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# World Cup <> 1958

**SWEDEN**

[June 08 - June 29]

## Factual Information

- ✓ **Date:** June 8 – June 29, 1958
- ✓ **Final Score:** Sweden – Brazil 2-5
- ✓ **3rd place:** West Germany – France 3-6
- ✓ **Teams:** 16
- ✓ **Stadiums:** 12
- ✓ **Host cities:** 12
- ✓ **Matches played:** 35
- ✓ **Goals:** 126
- ✓ **Attendance:** 919,580
- ✓ **Top scorer:** Just Fontaine (France) (13 goals)

## Major Results

| TEAM           | GOALS | TEAM |
|----------------|-------|------|
| Quarter Finals |       |      |

|                       |       |                  |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------|
| Germany FR            | 1 - 0 | Yugoslavia       |
| Sweden                | 2 - 0 | Soviet Union     |
| Brazil                | 1 - 0 | Wales            |
| France                | 4 - 0 | Northern Ireland |
| Semi Finals           |       |                  |
| Brazil                | 5 - 0 | France           |
| Sweden                | 3 - 1 | Germany FR       |
| Match for THIRD Place |       |                  |
| France                | 6 - 3 | Germany FR       |
| FINAL                 |       |                  |
| Brazil                | 5 - 2 | Sweden           |

The long, sun-kissed days of a Swedish summer provided a golden backdrop to Brazil's first FIFA World Cup triumph in 1958, the year that a 17-year-old called Pele announced his presence to football fans around the globe.

With a newfound tactical organization and two supreme attacking talents in Pele and Garrincha, Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 in the Final at the Rasunda Stadium to become the first team to capture the trophy on a different continent.

- Youngest player to score a goal in the World Cup
- Youngest player to score a hat-trick in the World Cup
- Youngest player to score two goals in the FINAL in the World Cup

[Watch the FINAL match in the World Cup 1958](#)

## Brazil v. Sweden

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VExHcZ3Ia4M&ab\\_channel=FootballNacy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VExHcZ3Ia4M&ab_channel=FootballNacy)

Attendance > 49,737



## World Cup 1958

Brazil's First Title and Rise of The King



Pelé was just a seventeen-year-old boy and practically unknown when he arrived in Sweden to play in the **1958 World Cup**.

However, Brazil's 5-2 convincing win over the hosts in the final and Pelé's outstanding performance, playing alongside another football genius, Garrincha, were enough to draw the world's attention to the player that would later be crowned the "Athlete of the Century."



*Pele with the Trophy*

The **1958 FIFA World Cup Final** took place in Råsunda Stadium, Solna (near Stockholm), Sweden on 29 June 1958 to determine the champion of the 1958 FIFA World Cup. Brazil won the World Cup by defeating Sweden, the host country, and thus won their first World Cup title.

### **Background**

Since both teams wore a yellow kit as their first choice, a draw was arranged in order to decide which team would use its regular strip. Brazil boycotted the draw, thus making Sweden winner, and forcing Brazil to find another color to wear. Initially, Brazil was going to wear white, but this idea was rejected when the players were visibly frightened by the idea, recalling their loss in 1950. Eventually the staff went on to buy 22 blue T-shirts and sewed the Brazilian emblem.

### **Summary**

Sweden took the lead after only 4 minutes after an excellent finish by captain Nils Liedholm. The lead did not last long, however, as Vavá equalised just 5 minutes later. On 32 minutes, Vavá scored a similar goal to his first to give Brazil a lead 2-1 at the break. 10 minutes into the second half, Brazil went further in front thanks to a

brilliant goal scored by Pelé. He took control of the ball inside the penalty area, chipped the ball over the defender then smashed it past a helpless Kalle Svensson. Halfway through the second half Brazil went 4-1 up with a goal scored by Mário Zagallo. Simonsson pulled one back for Sweden with 10 minutes remaining but it was far too late. Pelé sealed the 5-2 victory for Brazil with a headed goal in stoppage time.

## Some selected Pictures







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# World Cup <> 1962

**CHILE**

[May 31 - June 17]

## Factual Information

- ❖ **Date:** 31 May – 17 June 1962
- ❖ **1962 World Cup Final:** Brazil – Czechoslovakia 3-1
- ❖ **3rd place:** Chile – Yugoslavia 1-0
- ❖ **Teams:** 16
- ❖ **Stadiums:** 4
- ❖ **Host cities:** 4
- ❖ **Matches played:** 32
- ❖ **Goals:** 89

❖ **Attendance:** 899,074

❖ **Top scorers:** **Garrincha** (Brazil), Vavá (Brazil), Leonel Sánchez (Chile), Dražan Jerković (Yugoslavia), Flórián Albert (Hungary), Valentin Ivanov (Soviet Union) (4 goals)

## Major Results

| TEAM                  | GOALS | TEAM           |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|
| Quarter Finals        |       |                |
| Chile                 | 2 - 1 | Soviet Union   |
| Czechoslovakia        | 1 - 0 | Hungary        |
| Yugoslavia            | 1 - 0 | Germany FR     |
| Brazil                | 3 - 1 | England        |
| Semi Finals           |       |                |
| Czechoslovakia        | 3 - 1 | Yugoslavia     |
| Brazil                | 4 - 2 | Chile          |
| Match for THIRD Place |       |                |
| Chile                 | 1 - 0 | Yugoslavia     |
| FINAL                 |       |                |
| Brazil                | 3 - 1 | Czechoslovakia |

[Watch the FINAL match in the World Cup 1970](#)

## Brazil v. Czechoslovakia

<https://www.tokyvideo.com/video/brazil-vs-czechoslovakia-1962-world-cup-final-full-match>

**Attendance > 68,679**

The 1962 World Cup Final was held on June 17, 1962 at the National Stadium in Santiago, Chile. The finalists were Brazil and Czechoslovakia, who faced each other in a single 90-minute match that Brazil won 3-1, becoming World Champions for the second time in its history. As a fact, since this World Cup, no other team has managed to win it twice in a row, only one, besides Brazil (1958 and 1962), has done so, but it was before that, Italy in 1934 and 1938.





## Summary

After 15 minutes, Brazil again found themselves a goal behind in the World Cup final, as a long ball from Tomáš Pospíchal was latched onto by Josef Masopust to put Czechoslovakia 1-0 ahead. However, just like the previous final four years earlier, Brazil soon hit back, equalising two minutes later through Amarildo after an error by the previously flawless Czechoslovak goalkeeper Viliam Schroj. The Brazilians did not stop there and with goals from Zito and Vavá (another Schroj error) midway through the second half, the Czechoslovaks could not get back into the game, with the match ending 3-1 to Brazil.

## Some selected Pictures







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# World Cup <> 1970

**M E X I C O**

[May 31 - June 21]

## Factual Information

- ✓ **Date:** May 31 – June 21, 1970
- ✓ **Final Score:** Brazil – Italy 4 -1
- ✓ **3rd place:** Germany FR – Uruguay 1 - 0

✓ **Teams: 16**

✓ **Stadiums: 5**

✓ **Host cities: 5**

✓ **Matches played: 32**

✓ **Goals: 95**

✓ **Attendance: 1,673,975**

✓ **Top scorers: Gerd Muller 10 (Germany), Jairzinho 7 (Brazil), Teofilo Cubillas 5 (Peru), Pele 4 (Brazil)**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4pGASQz74k&ab\\_channel=ClassicFootball](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4pGASQz74k&ab_channel=ClassicFootball)

## Major Results

| TEAM                  | GOALS | TEAM         |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------|
| Quarter Finals        |       |              |
| Uruguay               | 1 - 0 | Soviet Union |
| Brazil                | 4 - 2 | Peru         |
| Germany FR            | 3 - 2 | England      |
| Italy                 | 4 - 1 | Mexico       |
| Semi Finals           |       |              |
| Brazil                | 3 - 1 | Uruguay      |
| Italy                 | 4 - 3 | Germany FR   |
| Match for THIRD Place |       |              |
| Germany FR            | 1 - 0 | Uruguay      |
| FINAL                 |       |              |
| Brazil                | 4 - 1 | Italy        |

[Watch the FINAL match in the World Cup 1970](#)

**Brazil v. Italy**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GomTORLZcWw&ab\\_channel=BitcoinMaxiZA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GomTORLZcWw&ab_channel=BitcoinMaxiZA)



Attendance > 107,412

With this third win after their 1958 and 1962 World Cup victories, Brazil became the world's most successful national football team at that time, surpassing both Italy and Uruguay, who each had two championships. The third title earned Brazil the right to retain the *Jules Rimet Trophy* permanently; it was stolen in 1983 while on display in Rio de Janeiro and never recovered. 38-year-old Brazilian coach Mário Zagallo became the first footballer to win the World Cup as a player (1958, 1962) and a coach, as well the second youngest coach to win a World Cup, after Alberto Suppici in 1930. Pelé ended his World Cup playing career as the competition's first three-time winner.





## Summary

Brazil struck first, with Pelé heading in a cross by Rivellino at the 18th minute. Roberto Boninsegna equalized for Italy after a blunder in the Brazilian defence. In the second half, Brazil's firepower and creativity was too much for an Italian side that clung to their cautious defensive system. Gérson fired in a powerful shot for the second goal, and then helped provide the third, with a long free kick to Pelé who headed down into the path of the onrushing Jairzinho. Pelé capped his superb performance by drawing the Italian defence in the centre and feeding captain Carlos Alberto on the right flank for the final score. Carlos Alberto's goal, after a series of moves by the Brazilian team from the left to the centre, is considered one of the greatest goals ever scored in the history of the tournament.

A total of seven outfield players from Brazil passed the ball until captain Carlos Alberto hammered the ball into the corner of the Italian goal following a pass across the Italian penalty area from Pelé, prompted by Tostão, who, with his back to the goal, told Pelé that Alberto was steaming in on the right flank. Tostão started the move five yards from the left of the Brazilian penalty area, then ran the length of the field to the Italian box without touching the ball again to tell Pelé to lay it off for Alberto. The players involved in the passes in order were Tostão, Brito, Clodoaldo, Pelé and Gérson. Clodoaldo beat four Italian players in his own half before passing to Rivellino who hit a perfect pass down the wing to Jairzinho. Jairzinho crossed from the wing to the centre of the box to Pelé who held the ball up to play a pass for Alberto to smash it home. The only outfield players not involved in the move were Everaldo and Piazza. In 2002, the UK public voted the goal as number 36 in the list of the 100 Greatest Sporting Moments.



## Some selected Pictures







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## *PELÉ : World Cup Legend*

<https://www.givemesport.com/88072273-qatar-2022-the-story-of-how-pele-became-a-world-cup-legend>

*The story of how Pele became a World Cup legend*



By Steven Scragg

Published: 19 Oct 2022, 11:15



When Pelé headed to Sweden for the 1958 World Cup finals, he was still over four months short of his 18th birthday, and just two years on from being handed his first professional contract by his club side, Santos.



So prodigious was his unbridled talent, it had taken Pelé only ten months to travel the distance between his debut for Santos and his first representation for Brazil, when still only at the age of 16 he took to the Maracanã to make a goalscoring contribution in a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Argentina.

With strength and power that seemed beyond his tender years, **Pelé** was blessed with not only bewitching skills, but also a magical sense of balance and timing, to go along with focus, discipline, and a self-determination that was impossible for anybody else to replicate.

Brazil was not short of attacking players that possessed the most outrageous skills imaginable, with the legendary Garrincha at the apex of a very big pyramid, but not one of them boasted the broad ranging package that Pelé possessed.

After making his international bow against **Argentina**, Pelé would play for **Brazil** a further four times before the big kick off in Sweden, with the rotund, but visionary Vicente Feola making the now 17-year-old the youngest member of his 22-man squad.

### **Brazil had to conquer their World Cup mental block**

By 1958, the **World Cup** had become a seemingly insurmountable mental block for Brazil.

In attendance for every finals tournament since the World Cup's inception, the semi-final had been reached in 1938, when the iconic Leônidas da Silva inspired his teammates to a third-placed finish, after narrowly being edged out in the last-four by the holders, Italy, and having survived the infamous Battle of Bordeaux in the quarter-final against Czechoslovakia.

Denied by World War 2 of another attempt on the World Cup until 1950, as hosts Brazil were left heartbroken in the deciding game against Uruguay, when falling to a 2-1 loss at a frighteningly overcrowded Maracanã.

Four years later, in Switzerland, the Seleção lost out once more, this time in another game of violent intent, one which was christened The Battle of Bern, where Brazil was outfought and outthought by the incredible Mighty Magyars.

So, by the time Pelé set off for Sweden, he was leaving behind a nation that were braced for more despair to come, a sense of peril that was only heightened when in the draw Brazil were shepherded into a prototype Group of Death alongside Austria, England, and the Soviet Union.

Austria had been the home to one of the most potent football powerbases of the 1930s, while despite their dysfunctional showings at the two previous World Cups, England was the birthplace of the game, and the Soviets were viewed as terrifying supermen.

Little in the way of hope for success was given by the Brazilian populace, but without Pelé and Garrincha, Feola's team swept an idealess Austria aside, and played out an overly respectful goalless draw with England.

### How Pele inspired Brazil

Then came the masterplan, as Pelé and Garrincha were brought into the team to face the fearsome Soviets, where they brought the excellent Vavá to life, easing to a 2-0 victory in Gothenburg that surprised even themselves.

From here, Pelé and Brazil went stratospheric, as he scored the only goal of the quarter-final against a stubborn Wales, tying

Mel Charles and Stuart Williams in knots before prodding the ball home; this was then followed by them running five past a magnificent France in the semi-final, Pelé helping himself to a second half hat-trick, his third goal of which was undeniably the pick.

An unstoppable confidence having built, both personally and collectively, Pelé and his teammates scored five more times in the final itself, against the hosts. Sweden had even had the temerity to open the scoring thanks to the legendary Nils Liedholm, yet there was to be no falling into the patterns of an unfulfilled past however, as Brazil cruised to a 5-2 victory with Pelé scoring two beautiful second half goals.

With the world at his feet, four years later the 21-year-old Pelé was widely recognised as the best footballer on the face of the planet, as he headed to Chile for the defence of the Jules Rimet Trophy. In Brazil's opening game, against Mexico in Viña del Mar, Pelé was central to everything, laying on the first goal for Mário Zagallo, before slaloming his way past four opponents to net the second.

Three days later however, against Czechoslovakia, Pelé tore a thigh muscle when attempting a shot from distance. It was an innocuous but damaging moment, and it ended his involvement in the 1962 World Cup, although Brazil responded well from the blow, as his replacement, Amarildo, helped Aymoré Moreira's team to retain the trophy.

Still only 25 as he headed into his third World Cup, Pelé was reunited with Feola once more, as Brazil's 1958 World Cup winning coach returned to take the team to England in 1966. Yet, there would be no repeat of the success from Sweden.



Just as in Chile, Pelé was central to Brazil's winning start to the 1966 World Cup, scoring with a beautifully taken free kick against Bulgaria at Goodison Park. It was though a win which came at a cost, as the abrasive approach taken by Pelé's markers - which went largely unpunished by the referee - was enough to rule him out of Brazil's second game, against Hungary, a fixture they lost in their star player's absence.

It was an only tenuously fit Pelé who then took to the pitch for a win or bust clash with the Eusébio inspired Portugal. João Morais would be the villain of the piece, with two horrendous tackles that left the Brazil number ten nothing more than a pedestrian. As Feola's side exited the tournament, Pelé's response was to announce he would never again play in a World Cup.

Mexico in 1970 would prove too much of a temptation for Pelé however, and football culture as we know it was all the better for the reversal of his 1966 decision.

From the chest control and finish, or even the effort from Pelé's own half that narrowly missed against Czechoslovakia, to 'that' lay-off for Jairzinho and 'that' save he forced from Gordon Banks against England, the swerve of his free kick against Romania, his unselfishness against





Barney Corkhill begins yet another new series called 'A Tribute To...' where he looks at legends of the game, past and present, explaining what makes them legends.

He starts with the biggest legend of them all.

### The King of football: PELE

He is the best player to come out of the best footballing country ever.

Edison Arantes do Nascimento, better known to the world as simply "Pele," was a phenomenon the like of which we may never see again.

His professional career started in 1956 when he signed for Santos Futebol Clube. He began playing for them at just 15-years-old, and even then people could tell that this was a special player. In fact, the man who took him to Santos predicted that he would become the greatest player in the world.

He scored on his debut for Santos and by the end of his first season in Brazil, he was the league's top scorer, at just 16 years of age.

It was also at this age that Pele was first called up to the Brazilian National squad. Again, he scored in his debut.

At just 17 years of age, he was called up to Brazil's 1958 World Cup squad. At the time he was the youngest player to have ever played at a World Cup. His goal against Wales in the quarter-finals made him the World Cup's youngest ever scorer, and a hat-trick in the semi-finals broke another record—him being the youngest player to have scored a World Cup hat-trick.

Another record was broken when he was the youngest player ever to play in a World Cup final, and yet another one when he scored twice in that final, helping his country to a 5-2 victory over Sweden. His first goal was voted one of the best in World Cup history.

So, by the age of 17 he had been top scorer of his domestic league and won a World Cup. The interest from big clubs worldwide was inevitable. However, the government of Brazil declared him an "official national treasure" to prevent him moving, such was his importance.

The 1962 World Cup was not as successful for Pele. He injured himself early on in the tournament, and so played no further part in the victorious Brazil side. However, in 2007, FIFA announced that Pele would be awarded a World Cup winners medal for that tournament. That gave him his second World Cup success at just 21.

The 1966 World Cup was an even worse one for Pele. Brazil were often kicked off the park, and they went out in the first round, after which Pele expressed his desire never to play in a World Cup again.

In 1969, still playing for Santos, Pele scored his 1000th goal in all competitions. This was unprecedented, especially for a player playing in the play-maker position. His goals to games ratio was quite remarkable. 1281 goals in 1363 games is unlikely ever to be beaten.

In 1970 Pele went back on his promise never to play in a World Cup again, and helped Brazil to win the tournament with perhaps the greatest team to ever play football. One particularly memorable moment for Pele at this World Cup was that save by Gordon Banks, which Pele himself admits was the greatest save he had ever seen.

After leaving Santos in 1974, he played in the United States for a while, but he was long passed his heyday.

Pele is the only player to have won three World Cups, and only one of two to have scored in four separate World Cups.

He really had no weaknesses. A powerful shot, a fantastic header, excellent dribbling, pinpoint passing, great pace, and, of course, a prolific goal-scoring ability.

Named **Athlete of the Century** and **Player of the Century**, and widely regarded as the greatest player to have ever kicked a ball, this has been a tribute to Pele.

Watch him play!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7OIvaEOvu8&ab\\_channel=FootballGOD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7OIvaEOvu8&ab_channel=FootballGOD)

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# PELE – Honours, et al

## [A] Ballon d'Or Awards

Pele has "won" more Ballon d'Ors than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo, the Brazilian legend claiming seven of the annual awards that mark the world's best player.

We might think that Messi holds the all-time record with six, ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo's five. But according to France Football, who organise the Ballon d'Or, Pele is on seven awards and leading the pack. Let us explain!

Until 1995, only European footballers were eligible to win the Ballon d'Or. Pretty unfair, so France Football changed that rule and opened up the award to truly honour the world's best.

Then in 2016, they went back and did an "international re-evaluation" to calculate who *should* have won the Ballon d'Or had it always been global - and retrospectively gave Pele seven: for 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964 and 1970.

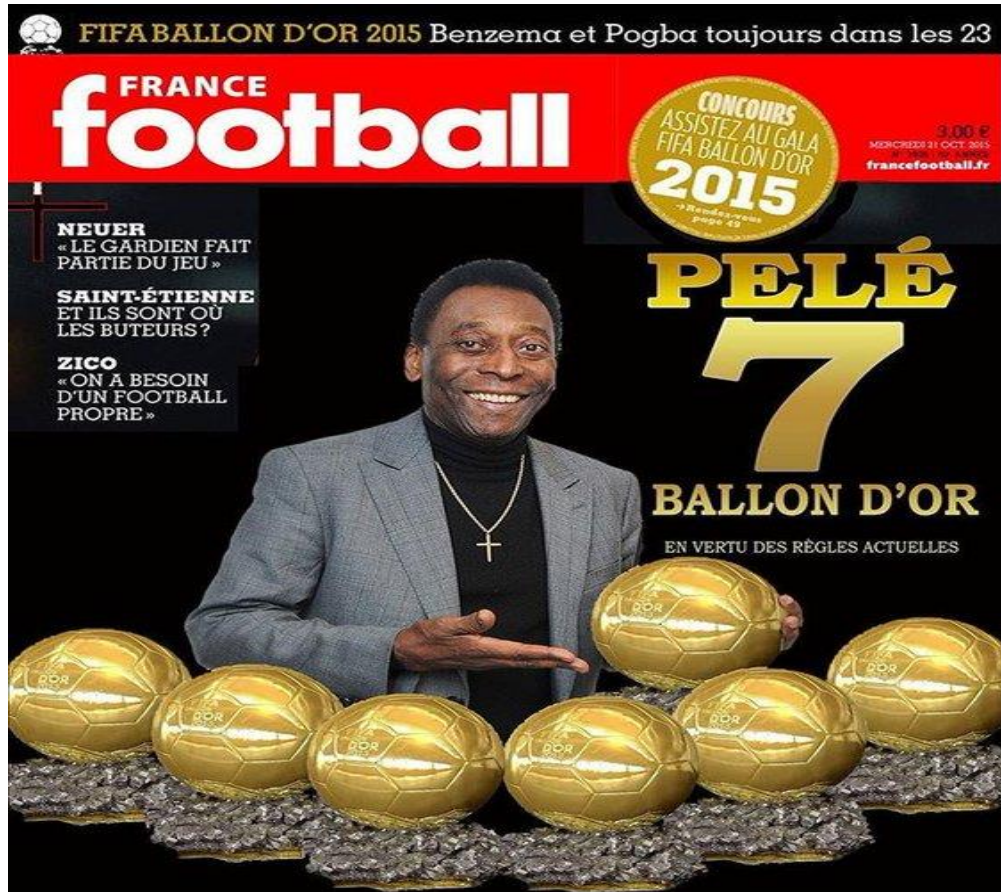
### Le nouveau palmarès (internationalized reevaluation)

| Year ↕ | Original winner ↕                                                                                      | Alternative ↕                                                                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1958   |  Raymond Kopa       |  Pelé           |
| 1959   |  Alfredo Di Stéfano |  Pelé           |
| 1960   |  Luis Suárez        |  Pelé           |
| 1961   |  Omar Sívori        |  Pelé           |
| 1962   |  Josef Masopust     |  Garrincha      |
| 1963   |  Lev Yashin         |  Pelé           |
| 1964   |  Denis Law          |  Pelé           |
| 1970   |  Gerd Müller        |  Pelé           |
| 1978   |  Kevin Keegan       |  Mario Kempes   |
| 1986   |  Igor Belanov       |  Diego Maradona |
| 1990   |  Lothar Matthäus    |  Diego Maradona |
| 1994   |  Hristo Stoichkov   |  Romário        |

They only did this in years when a non-European player deserved to win overall. As a result, Diego Maradona (twice), Romario, Mario Kempes and Garrincha joined Pele on the honorary winners list.



France Football even printed a magazine cover of Pele with his golden trophies and the headline: "**Pele 7 Ballon d'Ors**" - which seems pretty clear-cut.



## [B] Foreign football players with honorary British honours

Anybody in the UK can make a recommendation for a British national to receive an honour. However, the Foreign Office does also recommend honorary awards for foreign nationals to be approved by His Majesty The King. Currently there are five non-UK footballers to receive honorary British honours:

- Henrik Larsson MBE (honorary)
- **Pelé KBE (honorary)**
- Niall Quinn MBE (honorary)
- Peter Schmeichel MBE (honorary)
- Gianfranco Zola OBE (honorary)

## [C] Brazil's Maracana Stadium

Brazil's Maracana Stadium to be renamed after football legend following Rio de Janeiro state legislature vote.

Rio de Janeiro's state legislature voted to rename the Maracana after Pele; 'Rei'

translates from Portuguese as king; name change honours one of football's greatest ever players Brazil's world-famous Maracana Stadium is set to get a new name, after the Rio de Janeiro state legislature voted on Tuesday to change its official title to the Edson Arantes do Nascimento - Rei Pele Stadium.



The 80-year-old Pele, whose full name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, played at the stadium many times for Brazil and scored his 1,000th goal there in 1969 - for Santos against local club Vasco da Gama.

"It is a worthy homage to a man who is recognised the world over for his legacy in Brazilian football and for the corresponding services rendered to our country," the deputy responsible for the project said. 'Rei' means 'king' in Portuguese.

The stadium, host of the final match in the 1950 and 2014 World Cup tournaments, as well as the opening ceremony of the 2016 Olympics, has long been named after Mario Filho, a journalist who lobbied for its construction in the 1940s.

## [D] FIFA Player of the Century

FIFA Player of the Century was a one-off award created by FIFA to decide the greatest football player of the 20th century, announced at the annual FIFA World gala, held in Rome on 11 December 2000. Diego Maradona and Pelé were joint winners of the award.

Since 1955, FIFA has had awards for FIFA World Player of the Year and they decided to bring in the new millennium by conducting a public vote to decide the "FIFA Player of the Century". This was to be decided by votes on their official website, their official magazine, and a grand jury. Maradona won the Internet-based poll by wide margins, garnering 53.6% of the votes against 18.53% for Pelé. Despite

the fact that Eusébio, who played football professionally during Pelé's era, placed third in the poll, many observers complained that the Internet nature of the poll would have meant a skewed demographic of younger fans who would have seen Maradona play, but not Pelé. As a result, FIFA decided to add a second poll and appointed a "Football Family" committee composed of football journalists, officials, and coaches, who voted Pelé the best player of the century with 72.75% of the vote, thus both were joint winners of the award.

### [E] Football Player of the Century

In 1999 France Football consulted former Ballon d'Or winners to elect the Football Player of the Century. 30 out of the 34 former Ballon d'Or winners from 1956 to 1999 voted, with 17 of these giving the highest votes to Brazilian Pelé, who received the almost twice as many points as the second place getter Maradona.

### [F] Citizen of the World

In 1977, the United Nations proclaimed him a "*Citizen of the World*".

### [G] Sportsman of the Century

In 2000, Pelé was named second in the BBC's "Sportsman of the Century" award. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali came first.

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